

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09522 201729Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2180

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PASS DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: HIGHEST MID-YEAR TOTAL OF UK UNEMPLOYED SINCE
WAR

1. SUMMARY - UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK CONTINUED TO INCREASE SHARPLY AGAINST THE SEASONAL TREND BETWEEN MAY AND JUNE TO REACH THE HIGHEST MID-YEAR TOTAL SINCE THE WAR. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF UNFILLED VACANCIES SHOWED ANOTHER SHARP FALL WHILE APPROXIMATELY 205,000 EMPLOYEES WERE ON SHORT-TIME WORKING. SHOULD THIS PRESENT UPWARD TREND OF UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUE THEN THE EMOTIVE ONE MILLION MARK COULD BE PASSED BY THE AUTUMN, BEARING OUT THE WARNINGS FIRST ISSUED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER DENIS HEALEY, AMONG OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EXTENT OF THE DETERIORATION IN THE LABOR MARKET IS BEST SHOWN BY THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED EXCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS AND ADULT STUDENTS. LATEST STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT (DE) SHOW THAT IN THE UK THIS FIGURE INCREASED OVER THE MONTH TO JUNE 9 BY 47,900 TO 901,400 OR 3.9 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND, THE TOTAL WENT UP BY 47,000 TO 863,700 OR 3.8 PERCENT, AS AGAINST A DECREASE OF 35,700 WHICH
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09522 201729Z

COULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. OVER

THE PAST TWO MONTHS THE GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL HAS GONE UP BY ALMOST 104,000, ONE OF THE SHARPEST INCREASES EVER RECORDED. OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS THE TOTAL HAS RISEN BY OVER 301,000. FROM 2.5 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE TO 3.8 PERCENT.

3. THE NUMBER OF UNFILLED VACANCIES FOR ADULTS DECREASED OVER THE MONTH TO JUNE 4 BY 5,108 TO 158,996 AS AGAINST AN EXPECTED INCREASE OF 9,200. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED THEREFORE THE TOTAL WENT DOWN BY 14,300 TO 141,300. REDUNDANCIES NOTIFIED TO THE DE AS DUE TO OCCUR IN MAY TOTALLED 22,000, COMPARED WITH 16,000 IN APRIL AND 6,000 IN MAY 1974. THE TOTAL OF 111,000 FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR IS ALMOST DOUBLE THAT FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

4. THE TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE UK, THAT IS INCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS AND ADULT STUDENTS AND NOT ADJUSTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATIONS, INCREASED BY 19,489 TO 869,822 OR 3.7 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. THE GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL WENT UP BY 18,261 TO 831,316, THE HIGHEST JUNE FIGURES RECORDED SINCE THE WAR.

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